

writing, sought just the public good, the good of the people as a whole, as the first of all considerations.

"Now, my ambition is that, in however small a way, the work I do shall be along the "Washington and Lincoln lines. While President I have *been* President, emphatically; I have used every ounce of power there was in the office and I have not cared a rap for the criticisms of those who spoke of my 'usurpation of power'; for I know that the talk was all nonsense and that there was no usurpation. I believe that the efficiency of this Government depends upon its possessing a strong central executive, and wherever I could establish a precedent for strength in the executive, as I did for instance as regards the external affairs in the case of sending the fleet around the world, taking Panama, settling affairs of Santo Domingo and Cuba; or as I did in internal affairs in settling the anthracite coal strike, in keeping order in Nevada this year when the Federation of Miners threatened anarchy, or as I have done in bringing the big corporations to book—why, in all these cases I have felt not merely that my action was right in itself, but that in showing the strength of, or in giving strength to, the executive, I was establishing a precedent of value. I believe in a strong executive; I believe in power; but I believe that responsibility should go with power, and that it is not well that the strong executive should be a perpetual executive. Above all and beyond all I believe as I have said before that the salvation of this country depends upon "Washing-

ton and Lincoln representing the type of
leader to which
we are true. I hope that in my acts I have
been a good
President, a President who has deserved well
of the Ee-
public; but most of all, I believe that whatever
value my
service may have, comes even more from what
I am than
from what I do. . . .

"A few months ago three old back-country
farmers
turned up in Washington and after awhile
managed to get
in to see me. They were rugged old fellows,
as hairy as
Boers and a good deal of the Boer type.
They hadn't a
black coat among them, and two of them wore
no cravats;